

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Jim Mattis
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Mattis:

As Members of the House of Representatives with an interest in national security, we write to you to reinforce congressional intent when it comes to the implementation of reports covering climate change and the threat it poses to the United States and our armed forces operating and training at home and around the globe.

On May 10, 2018, The Washington Post reported that during revision of the Department's January 2018 Screening Level Vulnerability Assessment Survey Report, defense officials omitted information relating to how military installations report their vulnerability to sea level rise, how climate change is affecting the operating environment in the Arctic, and what potential risks the Department faces with respect to its ability to conduct training and testing activities that have important impacts on our readiness.

While we appreciate the need to update reports when it is appropriate and necessary, we are disturbed that the revisions may have intentionally targeted mentions of climate change. The facts are clear: climate change poses a threat to the Department and the nation.

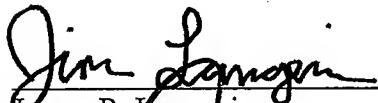
Congress recognized those facts on a bipartisan basis in the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, which expressed the sense of Congress that climate change is a direct threat to national security. Furthermore, the Congressionally mandated report requires each Service within the Department to assess the top ten military installations likely to be affected by climate change over the next 20 years and specific mitigations that may be necessary to ensure the continued operational viability and resiliency of the identified installations. The provision also instructs combatant commanders to incorporate the effects of a changing climate into their strategic plans.

This language was supported in both the House Armed Services Committee and during a roll call vote on the Floor of the House. We expect that when this report is delivered to Congress later this year, it will contain candid assessments in line with the clear instructions passed by Congress and signed into law by the President.

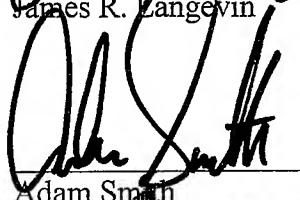
We reiterate that the statutory language is quite clear; however, should there be any ambiguity that you believe will impair your ability to fulfill Congress's mandate, we are, of course, at your

disposal. Thank you for your service and dedication to the United States, and for your continued focus on this issue as you fulfill your duties as Secretary of Defense.

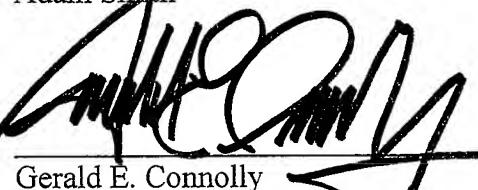
Sincerely,



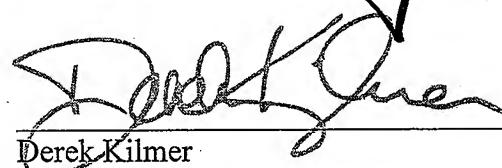
James R. Langevin



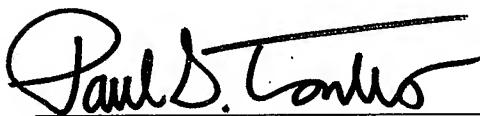
Adam Smith



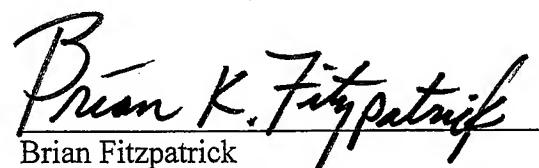
Gerald E. Connolly



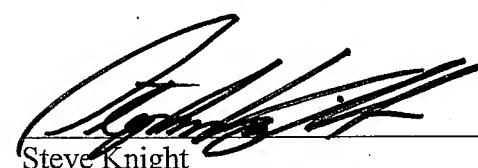
Derek Kilmer



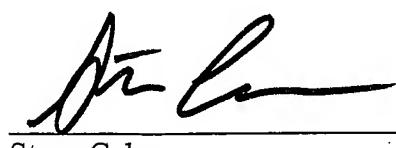
Paul D. Tonko



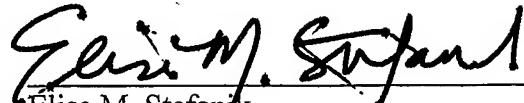
Brian Fitzpatrick



Steve Knight



Steve Cohen



Elise M. Stefanik



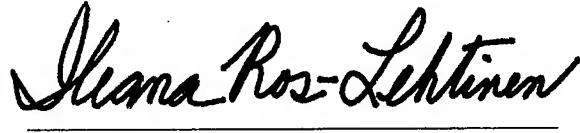
Ted Deutch



Carlos Curbelo

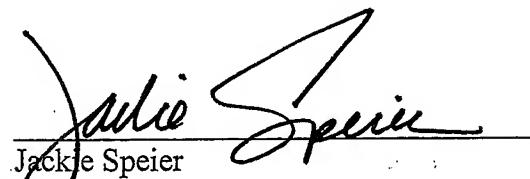


Scott Peters

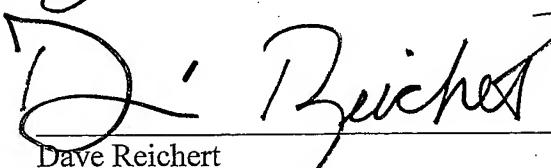


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



Jackie Speier



Dave Reichert



John Katko

John J. Faso

John J. Faso

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol Shea-Porter

Salud Carbajal

Salud Carbajal

A. Donald McEachin

A. Donald McEachin

Anthony G. Brown

Anthony G. Brown

Denny Heck

Denny Heck

Colleen Hanabusa

Colleen Hanabusa

Alan Lowenthal

Alan Lowenthal

John K. Delaney

John K. Delaney

Pramila Jayapal

Pramila Jayapal

Thomas R. Suozzi

Thomas Suozzi

Jerry McNeany

Jerry McNeany

Jimmy Panetta

Jimmy Panetta

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen

Niki Tsongas

Niki Tsongas

John Garamendi

John Garamendi

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum

Ryan Costello

Ryan A. Costello

Julia Brownley

Julia Brownley

Matt Cartwright

Matt Cartwright

Bill Foster

Bill Foster

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard

Mimi Walters

Mimi Walters

Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton

Ruben Gallego

Ruben Gallego

Jamie Raskin

Jamie Raskin

William R. Keating

William R. Keating